



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

October 2017

Volume 3



October 2017 Filing Reminder!

eCRIS After Hours Support

After Hours Support will resume during
the October 2017 Filing period.



NEWSLETTER

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Update on Electronic Filing Requirement

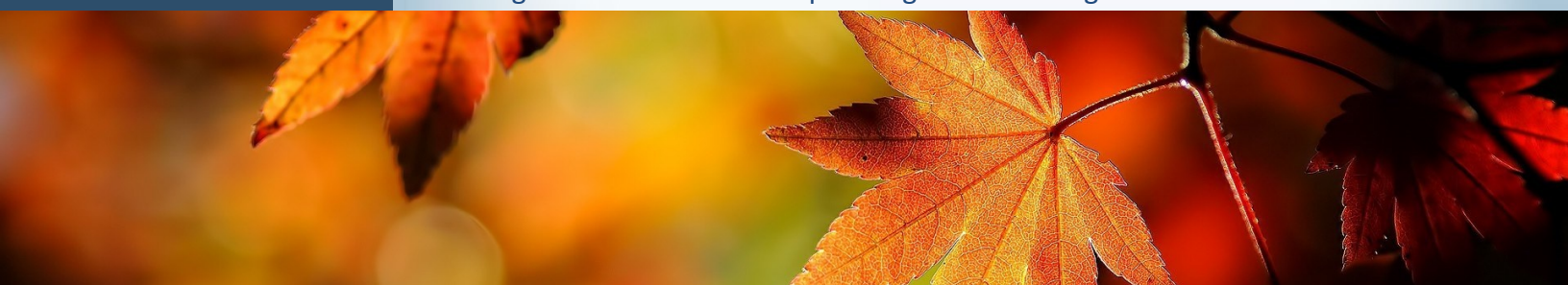
As many of you are aware, Public Act 16-203 implemented a mandatory electronic filing requirement for most committees that file with the Commission. This requirement came into effect on July 1 of this year, making the quarterly campaign finance report that was due July 10, 2017 the first report to fall within the new requirement.

In the weeks leading up to the July quarterly filing, Commission staff engaged in significant outreach to ensure committees that were required to file electronically would be ready to do so. We began by analyzing the financial activity of the 99 political committees and town committees still filing by paper to determine which were required to file electronically because they met the financial threshold. It was determined that 57 of these committees were required to become eCRIS users. We vigorously contacted each of these committees, placing phone calls, setting up conference calls with committee officers, sending emails and certified letters, and conducting one-on-one eCRIS trainings. In fact, we have conducted over 80 one-on-one eCRIS trainings since the beginning of this year. The eCRIS helpdesk fielded nearly 150 calls during the filing period as well, many of which were from new users.

We are pleased to report that all 57 committees became electronic filers and filed their July reports timely. Of the 42 paper filing committees that we determined would be exempt from electronic filing, 17 of these committees still opted to convert to eCRIS. And of the 99 committees that had been filing by paper, all of them submitted their July reports timely.

In total, 614 of 637 (or 96% of) party committees and ongoing political committees filed electronically. A year ago, only 84% of such committees were filing electronically. Each report filed electronically saves the state money!

The number of filings was also considerably low for the July filing. There was a total of 14 committees that filed late, all of whom filed within 21 days of being noticed of their lateness. For the first time any Commission staff member can recall, the Disclosure Unit had no referrals to the Enforcement Unit. We hope to see good numbers for the upcoming October Filing!





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Municipal Campaign Finance Filing Pilot Program – Update

This election cycle, the Commission has served as the filing repository for the campaign finance filings of municipal candidates and committees in 20 towns: Cheshire, Colchester, East Haddam, East Haven, Hamden, Killingworth, Manchester, Meriden, Middletown, Monroe, New Britain, New Hartford, Norwich, Pomfret, Scotland, Simsbury, Stonington, Trumbull, West Hartford and Westport.

Working with the town clerks, our office processed 764 candidate registrations. All of these registrations, as well as any amendments, are available for public viewing on eCRIS. One third of the candidates submitted their candidate registrations directly through eCRIS.

There are 89 candidate committees and 13 slate committees that registered across the 20 towns. Disclosure filings they submit will be available on eCRIS. For candidates funded by town committees, the town committees' filings will be viewable, as always, on eCRIS as well.

Thank you to the town clerks and their offices for partnering with us in this program!

Municipal Campaign Trainings

Over the summer, Commission staff completed their municipal-year tour of the state, conducting 5 separate trainings for local elections. Training locations included Colchester, Hartford, Torrington and Westport and we appreciate the warm welcome and support from the town halls and libraries who hosted us. All trainings had record attendance! Thoughtful discussions and clarification on municipal campaign finance occurred at each training and staff enjoyed connecting with many candidates, treasurers and local party leaders.

If any candidates or campaign staff were not able to attend a training, you may access the training slides [here](#) and can call with any questions you have.

Staff is also assembling a video series to walk you through the Municipal Campaign Finance Training. You can access those videos [here](#).



PILOT PROGRAM



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Upcoming Filings

The filing period for the October quarterly report (October 10 Filing) commenced October 1, 2017 and ends October 10, 2017. All town committees, traditional and independent expenditure political committees, and candidate and exploratory committees must file this report **regardless** of financial activity.

All town committees in towns where the municipal election falls in November must also file the 7th day preceding election filing due October 31, 2017, regardless of financial activity. If a political committee has received contributions or made or incurred expenditures in connection with a November election, it too will need to file this report. The report is also required of candidate committees of candidates who will be on the November 2017 ballot. Please note that this filing is due two days after the end of the period that must be covered by the filing.

All state central committees have one report due in October – the 12th day preceding the election filing – which is due October 26, 2017.

For more information on these filings, including the period that must be covered by them, please consult the [filing calendar](#) applicable to your type of committee.



Running for Office in 2018?

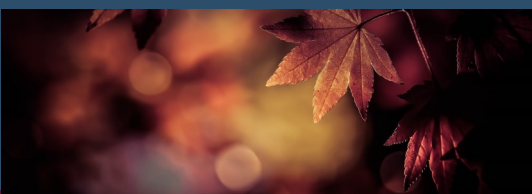
If you have recently registered a committee for the 2018 election cycle or plan to do so soon, please contact Elections Officer Sarah Clark to set up a meeting with our staff and, if you are planning to collect contributions online, to have your website promptly reviewed. We are here to help your campaign start off on the right foot!

Budget Proposal to Eliminate the Citizens' Election Program

Earlier this month, the legislature passed a budget bill that would eliminate or drastically change enforceability of the Citizens' Election Program, the leading clean elections system in the nation. On September 22, 2017, SEEC's five Commissioners wrote to Governor Malloy to express their concern about the proposals, writing that "[c]hanges to the way our government operates and the access that

Connecticut voters have to their elected officials should be done with transparency, not in closed door secret budget sessions. Please don't allow Connecticut's clean elections—and our hard-fought gains against corruption to be a bargaining chip in the upcoming negotiations." On September 28, 2017, the Governor vetoed the bill.

To read the complete letter, please [click here](#).





NEWSLETTER

Staff Spotlight

Elections Officer Lisa Nightingale left the agency at the end of September to focus on raising her young family. Lisa has been assisting candidates and treasurers since the inaugural run of the Citizens' Election Program and the Commission and staff thank her for her nearly ten years of service.



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